

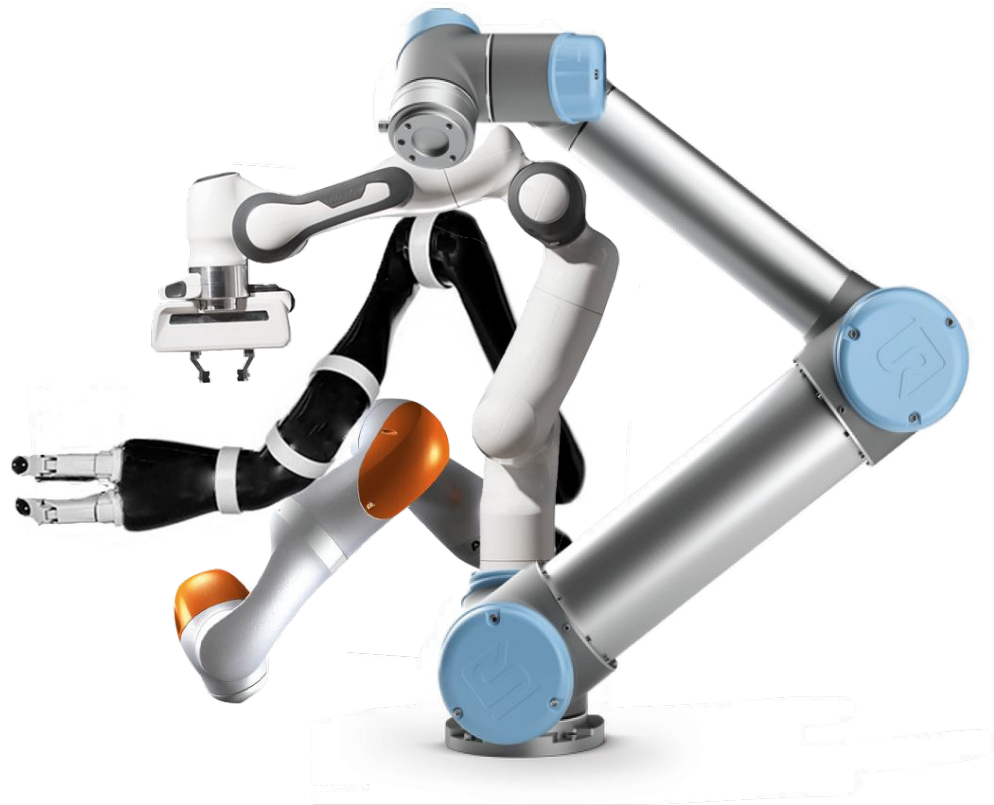
Leveraging a functional approach for easier testing and maintenance of ROS 2 code

October 2023

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Outline

- Introduction
- ROS 2 Conventional Approach
- Introduction to Functional Programming Principles
- Refactoring using Functional Programming Principles
- Conclusion



Introduction

About Me

- Robotics Engineer on the services team at PickNik Robotics
 - Contributed to a wide variety of client projects: remotely operated underwater inspection vehicles, autonomous mobile base for agriculture applications, and more
- Have worked at General Dynamics Electric Boat, MIT Lincoln Laboratory
- Interested in robotics since high school

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- Engineers at PickNik experiment with different ways to architect code that uses ROS 2 – creating code that is easy to understand, test, maintain, and extend

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- ROS 2 documentation encourages an object-oriented paradigm that can lead to trouble writing code that achieves the goal
- **Adopting functional programming techniques into our code has made it easier to test, maintain, and extend code!**

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Motivating Example

- Problem: A robot wants to navigate from its current location to some goal
- The robot needs to know where obstacles are located in its environment
- Let's use an occupancy map to represent the environment
- Assumption: The robot knows its location in the occupancy map at all times
- Solution: The robot will send a request to a ROS 2 service that generates a path from the robot's current location and goal location, given an occupancy map



ROS 2 Conventional Approach

Conventional Approach

```
class PathGenerator : public rclcpp::Node {
public:
    explicit PathGenerator(
        rclcpp::NodeOptions const& options = rclcpp::NodeOptions{})
        : Node("path_generator", options);

private:
    void set_map_service(
        const std::shared_ptr<SetMap::Request> request,
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    bool set_costmap(const std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray& costmap);

    Path generate_global_path(Position const& start, Position const& goal);

    Map<unsigned char> map_;
    int robot_size_;
    std::unique_ptr<CollisionChecker<unsigned char>> is_occupied_;
    rclcpp::Service<SetMap>::SharedPtr map_setter_service_;
    rclcpp::Service<GetPath>::SharedPtr path_generator_service_;
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- PathGenerator will be used to generate the path for our robot
- This code was written using example code available from the ROS 2 documentation
- Testing this class requires spinning up clients to send requests to the services and inspecting the responses

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- Yes, by using functional programming principles

Introduction to Functional Programming Principles

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- Let's go over some principles and see how we can use them in refactoring PathGenerator

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- A function is pure if and only if it could be replaced by a lookup table (potentially infinitely large!)

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- **The Standard Template Library contains many higher order functions!**
 - `std::transform`, `std::find_if`, `std::copy`, and more

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 - Compositional error handling: Monadic error handling allows composition of operations that might fail, in a way that if any operation fails, the whole computation fails
 - Error Propagation: Errors can be automatically propagated through a sequence of computations until they are explicitly handled

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- Monadic error handling simplifies error checking
- Let's try and refactor PathGenerator
 - **Claim: that the refactored PathGenerator has 100% coverage**

Refactoring using Functional Programming Principles

Refactoring PathGenerator

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    bool set_costmap(const std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray& costmap);

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- How the current PathGenerator looks

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- Let's refactor the callback function for the generate path service

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void generate_path_service(
const std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> request,
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  if (map_.get_data().size() == 0) {
    RCLCPP_ERROR_STREAM(this->get_logger(), "MAP IS EMPTY!!");
    response->code.code = example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::EMPTY_OCCUPANCY_MAP;
    response->path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();
    return;
  }
  /* More error pre-checks */

  auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};
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  // Generate the path
  auto const path = generate_global_path(start, goal);

  // Start populating the response message
  auto response_path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();

  /* Code about populating the message here */

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 - generating the path
 - setting an out parameter

Refactoring PathGenerator

```
void generate_path_service(  
const std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> request,  
    std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Response> response) {  
    if (map_.get_data().size() == 0) {  
        RCLCPP_ERROR_STREAM(this->get_logger(), "MAP IS EMPTY!!");  
        response->code.code = example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::EMPTY_OCCUPANCY_MAP;  
        response->path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();  
        return;  
    }  
    /* More error pre-checks */  
  
    auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};  
    auto const goal = Position{request->goal.data[0], request->goal.data[1]};  
  
    // Generate the path  
    auto const path = generate_global_path(start, goal);  
  
    // Start populating the response message  
    auto response_path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();  
  
    /* Code about populating the message here */  
  
    response->code.code = !path.empty() ? example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::SUCCESS :  
example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::NO_VALID_PATH;  
    response->path = response_path;  
}
```

- generate_path_service is:
 - printing errors
 - generating the path
 - setting an out parameter
- Let's isolate the error printing functionality to another function
 - The error printing function needs to be passed an error type

Refactoring PathGenerator

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void generate_path_service(
const std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> request,
std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Response> response) {
    if (map_.get_data().size() == 0) {
        RCLCPP_ERROR_STREAM(this->get_logger(), "MAP IS EMPTY!!");
        response->code.code = example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::EMPTY_OCCUPANCY_MAP;
        response->path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();
        return;
    }
    /* More error pre-checks */

    auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};
    auto const goal = Position{request->goal.data[0], request->goal.data[1]};

    // Generate the path
    auto const path = generate_global_path(start, goal);

    // Start populating the response message
    auto response_path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();

    /* Code about populating the message here */

    response->code.code = !path.empty() ? example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::SUCCESS :
example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::NO_VALID_PATH;
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```

- generate_path_service is:
 - printing errors
 - generating the path
 - setting an out parameter
- Let's isolate the error printing functionality to another function
 - The error printing function needs to be passed an error type
- The object held by the shared pointer can be assigned by another function

Refactoring PathGenerator

```
void generate_path_service(
const std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> request,
  std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Response> response) {
  if (map_.get_data().size() == 0) {
    RCLCPP_ERROR_STREAM(this->get_logger(), "MAP IS EMPTY!!");
    response->code.code = example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::EMPTY_OCCUPANCY_MAP;
    response->path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();
    return;
  }
  /* More error pre-checks */

  auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};
  auto const goal = Position{request->goal.data[0], request->goal.data[1]};

  // Generate the path
  auto const path = generate_global_path(start, goal);

  // Start populating the response message
  auto response_path = std_msgs::msg::UInt8MultiArray();

  /* Code about populating the message here */

  response->code.code = !path.empty() ? example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::SUCCESS :
example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::NO_VALID_PATH;
  response->path = response_path;
}
```

- generate_path_service is:
 - printing errors
 - generating the path
 - setting an out parameter
- Let's isolate the error printing functionality to another function
 - The error printing function needs to be passed an error type
- The object held by the shared pointer can be assigned by another function
- The generate_global_path function and associated pre-checks can be extracted to another function

Refactoring PathGenerator

```
std::expected<GetPath::Response, error> generate_path(  
    std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> const request,  
    Map<unsigned char> const& occupancy_map, PathingGenerator path_generator) {  
    if (occupancy_map.get_data().size() == 0) {  
        return std::unexpected(error::EMPTY_OCCUPANCY_MAP);  
    }  
    /* More error pre-checks */  
  
    auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};  
    auto const goal = Position{request->goal.data[0], request->goal.data[1]};  
  
    // Generate the path using the path generator function that was input  
    auto const path = path_generator(start, goal, occupancy_map);  
    if (!path.has_value()) {  
        return std::unexpected(error::NO_VALID_PATH);  
    }  
  
    auto response = GetPath::Response{};  
    /* More implementation code */  
    return response;  
}
```

- Here is the refactored core functionality of the generate path callback

Refactoring PathGenerator

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std::expected<GetPath::Response, error> generate_path(  
    std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> const request,  
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    auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};  
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- Here is the refactored core functionality of the generate path callback
- This function returns a type which can be used for **monadic error handling**

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std::expected<GetPath::Response, error> generate_path(  
    std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> const request,  
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    auto const path = path_generator(start, goal, occupancy_map);  
    if (!path.has_value()) {  
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    }  
  
    auto response = GetPath::Response{};  
    /* More implementation code */  
    return response;  
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```

- Here is the refactored core functionality of the generate path callback
- This function returns a type which can be used for **monadic error handling**
- If there is an error, the function can handle the error in a compile time checkable way

Refactoring PathGenerator

```
using PathingGenerator = std::function<std::optional<Path>(
    Position const&, Position const&, Map<unsigned char> const&>);
```

```
std::expected<GetPath::Response, error> generate_path(
    std::shared_ptr<GetPath::Request> const request,
    Map<unsigned char> const& occupancy_map, PathingGenerator path_generator) {
    if (occupancy_map.get_data().size() == 0) {
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    auto const start = Position{request->start.data[0], request->start.data[1]};
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    auto const path = path_generator(start, goal, occupancy_map);
    if (!path.has_value()) {
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    auto response = GetPath::Response{};
    /* More implementation code */
    return response;
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```

- Here is the refactored core functionality of the generate path callback
- This function returns a type which can be used for **monadic error handling**
- If there is an error, the function can handle the error in a compile time checkable way
- The function that generates the path can now be passed in, making this function a **higher order function**

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- This function returns a type which can be used for **monadic error handling**
- If there is an error, the function can handle the error in a compile time checkable way
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- This function is deterministic and has no side effects, so it is a **pure function**

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- Here is the refactored core functionality of the generate path callback
- This function returns a type which can be used for **monadic error handling**
- If there is an error, the function can handle the error in a compile time checkable way
- The function that generates the path can now be passed in, making this function a **higher order function**
- This function is deterministic and has no side effects, so it is a **pure function**
- Let's test this function

Testing the Refactored PathGenerator

```
TEST(GeneratePath, NoValidPath) {  
    // GIVEN a GetPath request and an occupancy map  
    auto const sample_occupancy_map = get_test_occupancy_map();  
  
    auto const request = std::make_shared<GetPath::Request>();  
  
    request->start.data = {2, 2};  
    request->goal.data = {5, 5};  
  
    // WHEN the path is requested  
    auto const response = pathing::generate_path::generate_path(  
        request, sample_occupancy_map, pathing::generate_global_path);  
  
    // THEN there should be an error with the error::NO_VALID_PATH type  
    EXPECT_EQ(response.error(), pathing::generate_path::error::NO_VALID_PATH);  
}
```

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TEST(GeneratePath, NoValidPath) {  
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- Testing the refactored functionality is trivial

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- Testing the refactored functionality is trivial
 - Create required parameters

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- Testing the refactored functionality is trivial
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 - Pass the parameters into the function under test

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- All the functions that have been refactored so far can be tested this way

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- Testing the refactored functionality is trivial
 - Create required parameters
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- All the functions that have been refactored so far can be tested this way
- Everything can now be put together for the callback being executed by the generate path service

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    auto const request = std::make_shared<GetPath::Request>();

    request->start.data = {2, 2};
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    // WHEN the path is requested
    auto const response = pathing::generate_path::generate_path(
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- Testing the refactored functionality is trivial
 - Create required parameters
 - Pass the parameters into the function under test
 - Check the return
- All the functions that have been refactored so far can be tested this way
- Everything can now be put together for the callback being executed by the generate path service
- **All of this has been done without invoking the ROS 2 API!**

Putting it all together

```
[this](auto const request, auto response) {
    auto const print_error = [this](std::string_view error)
        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};

    auto const return_empty_response = []([[maybe_unused]] auto const)
        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};

    auto const stringify_error = [](auto const error) {...};

    *response = generate_path::generate_path(request, this->map_,
generate_global_path)
        .map_error(stringify_error)
        .or_else(print_error)
        .or_else(return_empty_response)
        .value();
}
```

- The generate path callback function has been replaced by a lambda function

Putting it all together

```
[this](auto const request, auto response) {  
    auto const print_error = [this](std::string_view error)  
        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};  
  
    auto const return_empty_response = []([[maybe_unused]] auto const)  
        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};  
  
    auto const stringify_error = [](auto const error) {...};  
  
    *response = generate_path::generate_path(request, this->map_,  
generate_global_path)  
        .map_error(stringify_error)  
        .or_else(print_error)  
        .or_else(return_empty_response)  
        .value();  
}
```

- The generate path callback function has been replaced by a lambda function
- If generate_path returns the expected value, it is directly assigned to response

Putting it all together

```
[this](auto const request, auto response) {  
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        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};  
  
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    *response = generate_path::generate_path(request, this->map_,  
generate_global_path)  
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        .value();  
}
```

- The generate path callback function has been replaced by a lambda function
- If generate_path returns the expected value, it is directly assigned to response
- If generate_path returns an error, the error is handled by chaining functions together
 - This is the result of returning a monadic type and performing monadic error handling

Putting it all together

```
[this](auto const request, auto response) {  
    auto const print_error = [this](std::string_view error)  
        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};  
  
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        -> std::expected<GetPath::Response, std::string> {...};  
  
    auto const stringify_error = [](auto const error) {...};  
  
    *response = generate_path::generate_path(request, this->map_,  
generate_global_path)  
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- The generate path callback function has been replaced by a lambda function
- If generate_path returns the expected value, it is directly assigned to response
- If generate_path returns an error, the error is handled by chaining functions together
 - This is the result of returning a monadic type and performing monadic error handling
- If needed, more functions can be added to manipulate the expected type or error type, increasing modularity

Putting it all together

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[this](auto const request, auto response) {
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    auto const return_empty_response = []([[maybe_unused]] auto const)
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    auto const stringify_error = [](auto const error) {...};

    *response = generate_path::generate_path(request, this->map_,
generate_global_path)
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}
```

- The generate path callback function has been replaced by a lambda function
- If generate_path returns the expected value, it is directly assigned to response
- If generate_path returns an error, the error is handled by chaining functions together
 - This is the result of returning a monadic type and performing monadic error handling
- If needed, more functions can be added to manipulate the expected type or error type, increasing modularity
- How can this lambda be tested?

DI and Functional Programming

```
template <typename ServiceType>
using ServiceCallback = std::function<void(
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Request>const ,
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Response>>>;

struct Manager {
    struct MiddlewareHandle {
        // Define map service callback type
        using SetMapCallback = ServiceCallback<SetMap>;

        // Define path generation service callback type
        using GeneratePathCallback = ServiceCallback<GetPath>;

        virtual ~MiddlewareHandle() = default;

        virtual void register_set_map_service(SetMapCallback callback) = 0;

        virtual void register_generate_path_service(GeneratePathCallback callback) = 0;

        virtual void log_error(std::string const& msg) = 0;

        virtual void log_info(std::string const& msg) = 0;
    };

    Manager(std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw);

private:
    std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw_;

    Map<unsigned char> map_;
};
```

- With Dependency Injection (DI)!

DI and Functional Programming

```
template <typename ServiceType>
using ServiceCallback = std::function<void(
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Request>const ,
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struct Manager {
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    };

    Manager(std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw);

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```

- With Dependency Injection (DI)!
 - DI is used to move or “inject” objects into another object



DI and Functional Programming

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template <typename ServiceType>
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    Manager(std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw);

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```

- With Dependency Injection (DI)!
 - DI is used to move or “inject” objects into another object
- There still needs to be mutable state, to keep track of the occupancy map between service calls, thus the map_ member variable

DI and Functional Programming

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template <typename ServiceType>
using ServiceCallback = std::function<void(
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Request>const ,
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    };

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}; 90
```

- With Dependency Injection (DI)!
 - DI is used to move or “inject” objects into another object
- There still needs to be mutable state, to keep track of the occupancy map between service calls, thus the map_ member variable
- For the Manager object, a MiddlewareHandle struct is defined that is the interface for the injected dependency
- This abstract interface can be used to implement each function using the ROS API

DI and Functional Programming

```
template <typename ServiceType>
using ServiceCallback = std::function<void(
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Request>const ,
    std::shared_ptr<typename ServiceType::Response>>>;

struct Manager {
    struct MiddlewareHandle {
        // Define map service callback type
        using SetMapCallback = ServiceCallback<SetMap>;

        // Define path generation service callback type
        using GeneratePathCallback = ServiceCallback<GetPath>;

        virtual ~MiddlewareHandle() = default;

        virtual void register_set_map_service(SetMapCallback callback) = 0;

        virtual void register_generate_path_service(GeneratePathCallback callback) = 0;

        virtual void log_error(std::string const& msg) = 0;

        virtual void log_info(std::string const& msg) = 0;
    };

    Manager(std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw);

private:
    std::unique_ptr<MiddlewareHandle> mw_;

    Map<unsigned char> map_;
}; 91
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- With Dependency Injection (DI)!
 - DI is used to move or “inject” objects into another object
- There still needs to be mutable state, to keep track of the occupancy map between service calls, thus the `map_member` variable
- For the Manager object, a `MiddlewareHandle` struct is defined that is the interface for the injected dependency
- This abstract interface can be used to implement each function using the ROS API
- The lambda function that is used for the generate path service can be captured via mocking and tested

Testing with DI

```
struct PathManagerFixture : public testing::Test {
    PathManagerFixture() : mw_{std::make_unique<MockMiddlewareHandle>()} {
        // When the map callback is called, set the costmap
        ON_CALL(*mw_, register_set_map_service(testing::_))
            .WillByDefault([&](auto const& map_callback) {
                auto const map_request = make_occupancy_map();
                auto map_response = std::make_shared<SetMap::Response>();
                map_callback(map_request, map_response);
            });
        // Capture the path callback so it can be called later
        ON_CALL(*mw_, register_generate_path_service(testing::_))
            .WillByDefault(testing::SaveArg<0>(&path_callback_));
    }
    std::unique_ptr<MockMiddlewareHandle> mw_;
    pathing::Manager::MiddlewareHandle::GeneratePathCallback path_callback_;
};

TEST_F(PathManagerFixture, NoPath) {
    // GIVEN a path generator with a costmap
    auto const path_generator = pathing::Manager{std::move(mw_)};
    // WHEN the generate path service is called with an unreachable goal
    auto path_request = std::make_shared<GetPath::Request>();
    path_request->start.data = {2, 2};
    path_request->goal.data = {5, 5};
    auto path_response = std::make_shared<GetPath::Response>();
    path_callback_(path_request, path_response);
    // THEN the path generator should succeed
    EXPECT_EQ(path_response->code.code, example_srvs::msg::GetPathCodes::NO_VALID_PATH);
    auto const expected = pathing::Path{};
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- Here is the code testing the generate path lambda function

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- The generate path callback can now be tested by executing the callback function directly
- **There was no invocation of the middleware using DI and all code is testable without invoking the ROS 2 API!**

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- Break down code into discrete components that can be tested
- Prioritize using pure functions - easier to test and reason about
- Using higher order functions increased the modularity of the code, in this case allowing for different path generating algorithms to be used
- Monadic error handling led to easier error checking
- Refactoring PathGenerator using DI in conjunction with the functional programming paradigm led to code that has 100% coverage

Thanks to:

- Mariyum Gill
- Griswald Brooks
- Davide Faconti
- Kyle Kirves
- Tyler Weaver
- Chris Thrasher
- Brian Cairl
- Everyone else at PickNik

Bilal Gill

**Leveraging a Functional Approach for More Testable and Maintainable
ROS 2 Code**

Thank you!

All code and the full presentation are available at:

